



United States Senator
Richard Shelby
REPORTS TO ALABAMA



IN HONOR OF TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

This week provides everyone in America with an opportunity to thank and honor some very important individuals. May 2 marks the beginning of the 14th Annual Teacher Appreciation Week.

It is abundantly clear that obtaining a quality education is one of the most important factors for achieving success in our society. Education opens doors and provides numerous opportunities for people to realize their ambitions. However, acquiring an education involves much more than learning facts and figures from textbooks. As William Butler Yeats noted, "education is not the filling of a pail, but the

lighting of a fire." It takes special people to encourage others to learn, to achieve, to be their best. In classrooms across the nation there are thousands of these special people.

One such special person in my life was Ms. Madeline Wood. Ms. Wood taught me at the Rutledge School in Birmingham. Ms. Wood's course of instruction went beyond the basics of reading and writing - she reinforced the important values of hard work, and dedication that my parents taught me at home. Furthermore, she encouraged me to strive to achieve my goals and to see all the possibilities that life has to offer. Her impact on my life

has been significant. Although she is no longer with us, I want to honor her memory and thank Ms. Wood for teaching me to read and also for providing me with lessons that have proven valuable throughout my entire life.

As this week marks Teacher Appreciation Week, I encourage everyone to do the same - take the time to thank their teachers. It is extremely important that we recognize the individuals who helped shape our lives and show them that we appreciate and understand the importance of the work they do for us, our children, and our nation.

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